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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **HARVEST TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION** [US/US];
40 Grissom Road, Suite 100, Plymouth, MA 02360 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **ELLSWORTH, James, R.** [US/US]; c/o Harvest Technologies Corporation, 40 Grissom Road, Suite 100, Plymouth, MA 02360 (US). **MCGOVERN, Paul** [US/US]; c/o Harvest

Technologies Corporation, 40 Grissom Road, Suite 100, Plymouth, MA 02360 (US). **KIBBE, Mark** [US/US]; c/o Harvest Technologies Corporation, 40 Grissom Road, Suite 100, Plymouth, MA 02360 (US).

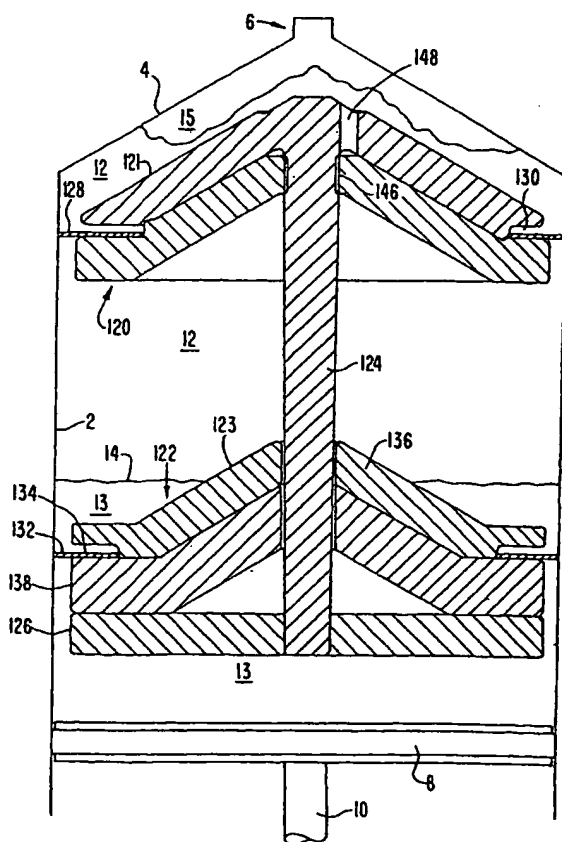
(74) Agent: **CLARK, Conrad, J.**; Clark & Brody, 1750 K Street, N.W., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006 (US).

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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SEPARATING FLUID COMPONENTS



(57) Abstract: A floating element for separating components (12, 13, 14) of a physiological fluid comprises two parts (120, 122) that are relatively movable. The two parts (120, 122) define a prescribed volume between them when at their maximum separation, and one of the parts (122) may be moved toward the other (120) to express the fluid contained in the volume between the parts (120, 122). The parts are made of materials having densities so that they assume a desired position in the fluid to allow selected components to be easily obtained and expressed.



GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/15654

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : B01L 11/00

US CL : 422/100, 101; 210/359; 494/38, 41

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 422/100, 101; 210/359; 494/38, 41

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X — Y	US 5,456,885 A (COLEMEN et al) 10 October 1995 (10.10.1995) See from line 53 of col. 3 to line 25 of col. 6.	4-7 ----- 8
X — Y	US 5,707,876 A (LEVINE) 13 January 1998 (13.01.1998). See from line 12 of col. 3 to line 39 of col. 4.	1 ----- 8
X	US 4,152,270 A (CORNELL) 01 May 1979 (01.05.1979) See from line 44 of col. 2 to line 29 of col. 6.	4-6

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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"&" document member of the same patent family

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Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

Matthew O Savage

Telephone No. (571) 272-1101

J. Whitfield
For